

THE DAILY 45: MAY EBONY AND  
HER MOTHER REST IN PEACE

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, every day, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. The indiscriminate level of violence knows no bounds as I mark the passing of Miss Ebony Jefferson, 31, who was shot to death 48 hours ago.

Ebony's death violates all standards of human decency. She was, literally, on the porch of her aunt's home, in a quiet Cleveland neighborhood, where she and her family were grieving the death of her mother, 55-year-old Lorena Jefferson, who died last Sunday of breast cancer.

In a brief moment of respite, while sharing a laugh and playing cards to fight back the tears, early Tuesday evening a man dressed in black, carrying a gun, threatened Ebony and her family, telling them to lay on the floor. Bravely, some of her family members told the assailant to leave and, briefly, he did. But, in a senseless instant, he turned around and fired nine shots, one of which struck Ebony. She died a short time later at a local hospital.

Ebony was a caring health care worker who was grieving the loss of her mother. She and her mother will now be buried, together, this Saturday while the gunman remains at large.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
KARISSA MARTIN FOR WINNING  
THE TITLE OF MISS OHIO 2008

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 17, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Karissa Martin was crowned Miss Ohio 2008; and

Whereas, Ms. Martin won a talent preliminary award and a swimsuit preliminary award at the Miss Ohio contest; and

Whereas, Karissa Martin will use her new title to raise skin cancer awareness; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Miss Ohio 2008, Karissa Martin for her contributions to her community and country.

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FOR PA-  
TIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT OF  
2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2008*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to President Bush's veto of H.R.

6331. This legislation is a critical bill to ensure that our seniors have access to health care and so I will again vote in its favor. I am disappointed with the President's decision and am compelled to make a stand in support of our seniors.

By the nature of our democratic process, almost no bill considered in Congress is perfect, and H.R. 6331 is no exception. We cannot, however, "let the perfect be the enemy of the good." H.R. 6331 is a good compromise that will help preserve our health care delivery system. This bill will increase investment in preventive and quality care, expand programs in rural communities, expand the patient centered medical home, and begin to transform the health care delivery system through the adoption of electronic prescribing. This investment will yield generations of healthier adults, improved quality of life, and long-term health care savings.

One of the most important pieces of this bill is the physician reimbursement rate fix—which is really an access issue. Perhaps the most critical situation facing our seniors in the coming decades will be access to physicians. Due to the paltry reimbursement rates for their services, more and more doctors are unable to take on new Medicare patients, or even serve any Medicare patients. They simply cannot pay the bills. The formula that CMS uses to determine the reimbursement for physician services is not based on cost accounting standards. No one seems to understand why CMS adopted this formula decades ago, yet no one at the agency seems willing to overhaul it. The result is decreasing reimbursement for physicians. When they cannot cover their own costs, they have to stop seeing Medicare patients and this is a grave concern. We are not only concerned that our parents will not be able to see a physician when in need, but also that there won't be adequate health care access when the baby boomers and our children become Medicare eligible. I'm for a permanent fix, which this House voted for in 2004 as part of the Medicare Modernization Act before the Senate stripped it, but until we get there, preventing the annual cuts must be our priority. This bill prevents a reimbursement rate cut and helps physicians continue to see their senior patients.

I strongly disagree with the President—and even my own leadership—on his position. Access to healthcare is one of the greatest issues facing our seniors—along with rising fuel costs—and it is irresponsible to stand in the way of providing that access. I urge my colleagues to join me in overriding the veto of H.R. 6331.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 5959 INTELLIGENCE AU-  
THORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL  
YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 16, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman REYES and Ranking Member HOEKSTRA for their work on this bill and their commitment to protecting the security of our Nation.

Madam Speaker, recently Americans have read media reports that taxpayer funds are

being used to destabilize or overthrow governments of other countries.

Regardless of the truth of these reports, the perception that they may be true undermines public confidence in U.S. foreign policy and harms the reputation of the U.S. abroad.

That is why I offered an amendment to the bill providing that the United States will not engage in covert activities to undermine or overthrow member nations of the U.N., including democratically elected governments. Such conduct is antithetical to democracy and the rule of law.

Unfortunately, my amendment was not made in order. Consequently, we lost an opportunity to repair some of the damage done to America's international reputation by the conduct of this Administration during the last seven years.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE INTEGRATION OF  
THE UNITED STATES ARMED  
FORCES

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 14, 2008*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 60th anniversary of the integration of the United States Armed Forces.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981 which stated that the Armed Services must extend equal opportunity to everyone who served in the military. Although the true fulfillment of this vision finally occurred 15 years after President Truman signed this Executive Order, July 26, 1948 remains a defining moment in our Nation's history because the leader of the Free World made it known that a united Nation needed a united military.

This extraordinary document was signed shortly after World War II when American troops and their allies restored hope, justice, and life to millions of people who were suffering under horrific dictatorship and terror. In the deadliest and most wide spread war in human history, the world had seen the valor, fortitude, and humility of the American military. Upon returning home, however, more than 400,000 African American World War II veterans were faced with the bitter reminder that they did not receive equal rights in the military in which they served and in the country that they loved.

Mr. Speaker, from the Revolutionary War to the present wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, blacks and other people of color have fought and died. In the years prior to desegregation, many black soldiers fought with the hope that if they demonstrated their bravery and dedication in battle, they could obtain the respect and opportunity in the military and civilian sector. Unfortunately, formal and informal practices of segregation and discrimination in the military and in our country prevented this hope from becoming and reality.

In the years leading to an unprecedented time of prosperity, growth, and development in the United States, President Truman dared to sign a document that would position our military and country in a new direction. At last, America would have laws that would ensure